

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully acknowledges allowance of Claims 1-30 and 41-46. Applicant requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the amendments presented above. Within the Office Action, Claims 34 and 36-39 have been objected to and Claims 31-33, 35 and 40 have been rejected. By way of the above amendment, Claims 7, 30, 31 and 41 have been amended and Claim 34 has been canceled and 35-46 are now pending in this application.

Objection to Claims:

Within the Office Action it is stated that Claims 34 and 36-39 have been objected to under as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 31 has been amended to include all of the limitation of the Claims 34 and the Claim 34 has been canceled. Accordingly, Claim 31 is allowable. Because Claims 31-33 and 35-39 depend from Claim 31, they too are allowable as depending on an allowable base claim.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Within the Office Action, Claims 31 and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2001/0029971A1 to Farmer, (hereafter "Farmer et al.").


Within the Office Action, Claims 31, 32, 33, 35 and 40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,494,526 to Paranjpe (hereafter, "Paranjpe") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,333,268B1 to Starov (hereafter, "Starov").

Rejections of Claims 31 and 32 and Claims 31-33 and 35 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Farmer and the combination of Paranjpe and Starov, respectively, are considered moot in view of the amendment presented above. Claims 7, 30 and 41 have been amended to correct minor grammatical errors.

For the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-33 and 34-46 are all in condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. If the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
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